

Finance Committee Minutes

May 2nd 2013

The meeting was called to order at 6:55PM with Mr. David Herrick presiding. The minutes for April 11th were distributed. In attendance were Mr. Ira Yohalem, Mr. Bill Hattendorf, Ms. Pat Mielke, and Mrs. Prudence Spaulding. Guests were Mr. Michael Skorput and Mr. Peter Scala. The minutes were accepted with corrections, Mr. Yohalem 1st, Mr. Hattendorf 2nd, passed unanimously.

Discussions centered about the warrant which was reviewed, and the proposed purchase of the new fire truck which is Article 24 on this year's warrant. Mr. Scala explained why the town needed this particular truck which is to replace a 24 year old truck. However, Mr. Herrick had explained the various attributes of the proposed truck at the last meeting. Mr. Hattendorf stated that some people in the town had questioned him regarding the cost of the vehicle and he stated that he did not feel he had adequate knowledge to answer their questions. Mr. Scala stated that there were state guidelines that had to be followed. Mr. Herrick stated that he would ask someone from the Fire Company to be prepared to answer these questions on the floor at Town Meeting

Mr. Herrick stated that he understood that there was a letter from Mr. Pignatelli stating that if the town went ahead and fixed some of the bridges (note Article 32 on the town warrant) the state would not fix any of the bridges. [However. This information proved to be inaccurate, and the Finance Committee members decided to remove the above section from the Minutes of the May 2nd meeting because of its inaccuracy]. There was some discussion with Mr. Scala entering into the discussion and remarking that there were many permits to be obtained prior to working and that the amount quoted in Article 32 was an estimate at best and the bridges would probably end up costing far more than this estimate.

There was some discussion about the borrowing of the money to pay for the items outside 2 ½. Last May 15th the Finance Committee had met with Clark Rowell the Unibank Advisor to discuss the possibility of getting a bond to cover some of the above outstanding items. Mr. Rowell spent some time explaining the benefits and the costs of a bond and later sent a complex folder which was interpreted that the searching for a bond as not being a "good match" for our town. Ms. Mielke stated that South Egremont had obtained a bond. But Mr. Yohalem referred back to the information from Mr. Rowell. The possibility of obtaining grants to help pay for the highway trucks was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40PM with no plans for another meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Prudence Spaulding, Secretary.

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Prudence Spaulding
May 4th 2013